50. (New)   The method of claim 46 wherein the dies are wedge-shaped.

51. (New)   The method of claim 46 wherein at least 8 dies are provided.

52. (New)   The method of claim 46 wherein at least 16 dies are provided.

53. (New)   The method of claim 46 wherein the dies are moved cooperatively inward during the moving step.

54. (New)   The method of claim 46 wherein the entirety of the stent is disposed in the aperture during the placing step.

55. (New)   A method of crimping a stent comprising the steps of:

          a) providing a crimper having a plurality of closely spaced overlapping movable dies defining an aperture, the aperture sized to receive a stent therein;

          b) placing a stent disposed about a catheter within the aperture;

          c) reducing the size of the aperture by moving the movable dies, the dies contacting the stent and crimping the stent onto the catheter.

56. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein the stent is disposed about a medical balloon, the medical balloon disposed about a catheter.

57. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein the stent is cooled below ambient temperature prior to reducing the size of the aperture.

58. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein the stent is made of nitinol.

59. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein the dies are wedge-shaped.

60. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein at least 8 dies are provided, the dies being wedge-shaped.

61. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein at least 16 wedge-shaped dies are provided.

62. (New)   The method of claim 55 wherein the entirety of the stent is disposed in the aperture during the placing step.

63. (New)   A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of

          a) providing a crimper having a plurality of closely spaced movable dies defining an aperture, the dies arranged to form an iris;

          b) placing a stent disposed about a catheter within the aperture, the stent having a first substantially uniform cross-section along its length;